

3 client devices, each of the packets having at least a part  
4 of a layer 2 header replaced with a unique bit string, the  
5 method comprising:

6 a) determining whether or not the packet belongs to  
7 the group of client devices using at least a portion  
8 of at least one of the unique bit string; and

9 b) if it is determined that the packet does belong to  
10 the group of client devices, then

11 i) copying the packet to generate a duplicate  
12 packet, and

13 ii) forwarding the duplicate packet to a  
14 monitoring facility, wherein the monitoring  
15 facility monitors at least one of (A) service  
16 provided to a group of customers and (B)  
17 security.

1 15. (TWICE AMENDED) An apparatus for monitoring packets  
2 sourced from a group of client devices defining a subset of  
3 client devices, each of the packets having at least a part  
4 of a layer 2 header replaced with a unique bit string, the  
5 apparatus comprising:

6 a) a monitoring port for accepting packets of the  
7 group of client devices to be monitored;

8 b) means determining whether or not an accepted  
9 packet belongs to the group of client devices using at  
10 least a portion of the unique bit string; and

11 c) means for

12 i) copying the accepted packet to generate a  
13 duplicate packet, and

14 ii) forwarding the duplicate packet to the  
15 monitoring port so that at least one of (A)  
16 service to a group of customers and (B) security,